

EXHIBIT #V.B.**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education**FROM:** Steven L. Bowen, Commissioner***DATE:** May 15, 2013**SUBJECT:** Approval of recommendation of the Certification and Higher Education Committee to proceed with Rulemaking of Chapter 13, Qualifying Examinations of Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

BACKGROUND: The proposed changes to Chapter 13 stem from the ongoing revision (regeneration) process employed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Each Praxis exam undergoes regeneration approximately every five years. The end result is a recommended cut off score that is deemed appropriate for the just qualified candidate (JQC) as established by a multi-state standard setting study conducted by ETS. Maine's required tests and scores must then be updated in Chapter 13.

The proposed changes to Chapter 13 include new test codes, recommended cut off scores, and language to allow old tests no longer being administered to be used for up to five years after which time only the new tests will be accepted. One test will be transferred from an older scoring system to a new score to align with the current scoring system; no changes were made to the tests. Another change will involve changing the Praxis I "Pre Professional Skills Test" to a revised version called the "Core Academic Skills for Educators." This new version is aligned with the new Common Core State Standards. The new tests will move Maine closer to being in line with tests and scores used in the other New England states.

PROPOSED TIMELINE:

File with the Secretary of State's Office – May 20, 2013

Posting – May 29, 2013

Public Hearing – June 20, 2013

Deadline for Comments – July 1, 2013

Deadline for Response to Comments – July 5, 2013

Final Adoption – July 10, 2013

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education's Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education initiate rulemaking to allow the proposed amendments listed above to be made to Chapter 13 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

*Completed by Mark A. Cyr, Certification Coordinator, Maine Department of Education